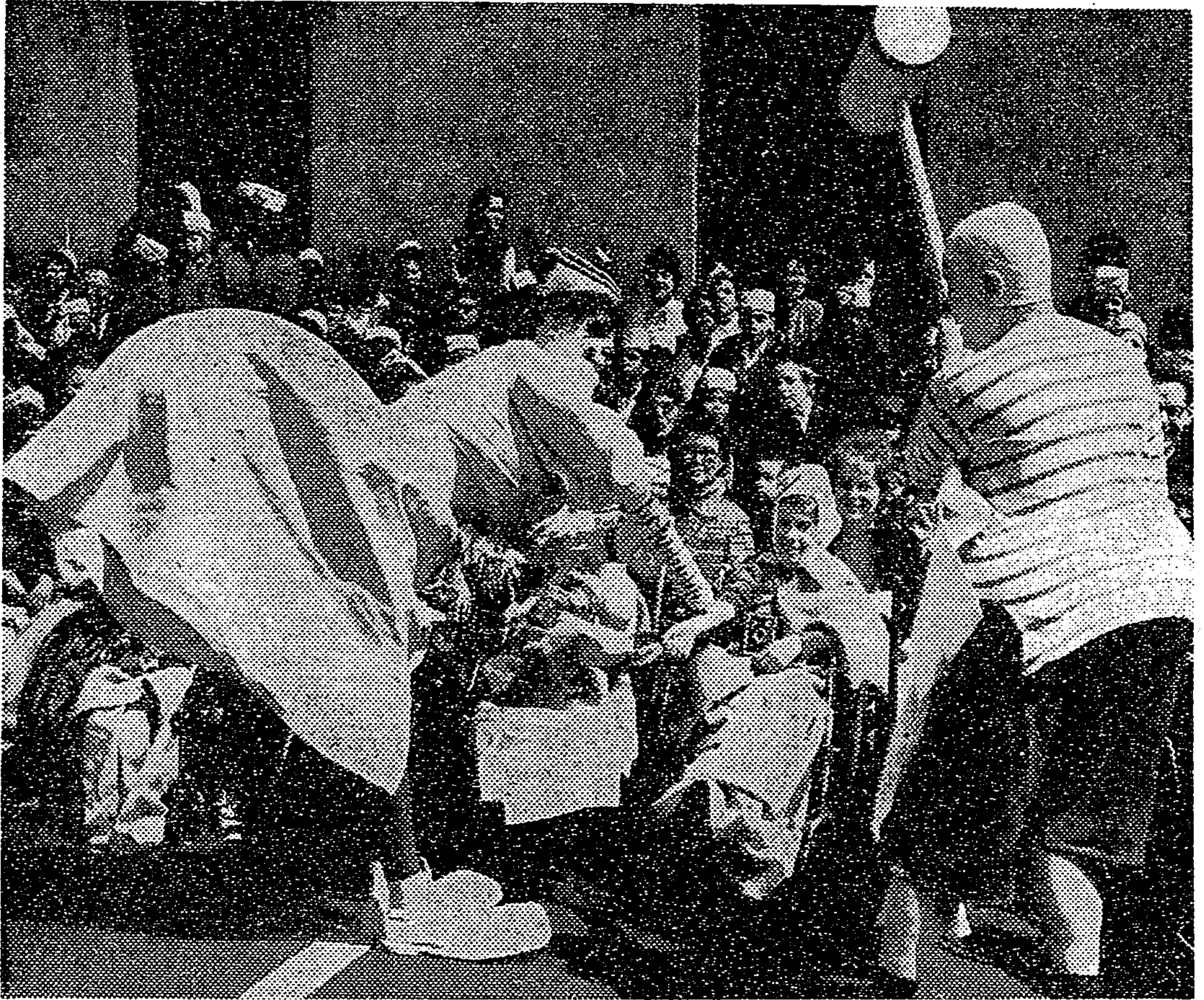


Circus Clowns Inject Joy During Annual Bellevue Visit



The New York Times

Clowns perform mock operation on Theresa Reiv, 11, in performance at Bellevue Hospital

Elephants danced in the courtyard of Bellevue Hospital yesterday. A man in purple tights teetered high on a wire. Six tumblers piled themselves into a pyramid, and zebras and llamas loped around the ring to waltz music from a brass band.

It was the annual circus treatment prescribed for old and young and administered by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The patients, wrapped in gray woolen blankets, responded with shrieks, whistles and clapping of hands. A full house overflowed into upper

balconies reserved for stretchers cases. The estimated attendance of 4,000 included doctors, nurses, volunteers and children from schools near by.

Clowns were everywhere, in the ring and on the sidelines. One, moaning with a giant-sized toothache, called out, "Is there a good-looking nurse in the house?" And then a clown nurse helped a clown doctor pull out a giant tooth as the grandstands howled with glee and patients forgot their own aches and ills.

Long after the five lumbering elephants had marched

out of the ring, linked trunk-to-tail, the wonder lingered in the eyes of one little boy in a wheelchair. "I never saw elephants before," he kept telling his nurse.

"Good-by until next year," the ringmaster called at the end of a dozen acts.

It was the fifty-eighth annual visit of the circus to Bellevue patients. Dr. Randolph A. Wyman, supervising medical superintendent, thanked the performers on behalf of the audience. "We welcome you with great pleasure," he said, "and look for you next year."

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